

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 9, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli, (arrived 6:08 p.m.); Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, and Claudine Pande. Gregory Coutcher, Chairperson and Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice Chairperson were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross were present.

ORDER – Clerk Zuercher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Member Donovan read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – Member McFadden requested to add an item to the next School Committee meeting agenda regarding the completeness of forms as it relates to grievances in order to have adequate, well documented, and signed grievance forms. Clerk Zuercher agreed that this item would be placed on the next regular meeting agenda.

Representative Lisa Tomasso introduced herself and said she hopes members are pleased with the budget process. She invited

individuals with questions relating to legislation that was passed during the session to call her. Representative Tomasso informed the School Committee of a federal grant, Hardest Hit Fund – RI, that is available to all RI homeowners and RI residents that find themselves in distress due to the housing crisis. She said she would bring informational packets to Dr. Geismar's office for dissemination to school community members.

In response to Member McFadden's question regarding the new school funding formula, Representative Tomasso said she could not answer what is expected. Moving forward, the funding formula in effect is based on student enrollment under a 10-year implementation process.

Member Rafanelli arrived to the meeting at this time, (6:08 p.m.)

In response to Member McFadden's comments regarding Barrington School Department's increase in state aid, Representative Tomasso said she could work with the house finance office on how it sees that increase and forward the information to Member McFadden. Lastly, Representative Tomasso informed the School Committee of a technology grant offered through GTECH. It is an after school program available to everyone. GTECH will host the towns of West Greenwich and Coventry even though they do not meet the demographics. Dr. Geismar stated that he has downloaded that application and would be in touch with Representative Tomasso for

assistance.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 9, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

Member McFadden made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Member Pande.

Member Donovan pointed out a discrepancy in the start time of Executive Session as indicated in the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2011 and the Executive Session Minutes of July 19, 2011.

Member Donovan moved to amend the Executive Session Minutes of July 19, 2011 to reflect Executive Session commenced at 6:45 p.m.; seconded by Member Rafanelli; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Member Donovan referenced the Bills Accruals – BIG FITNESS, Shipping & Handling - \$299.99 and asked if the merchandise was shipped from the North Kingstown facility. Mr. Ross said that he would check and email his findings to the entire School Committee.

Mr. Ross answered Members Rafanelli and McFadden's inquiries regarding Bills.

Clerk Zuercher requested a vote on Member McFadden's motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Member Donovan. Voted 5 - 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2011; Executive Session Minutes of July 19, 2011

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

a. Letter of Resignation from Lindsay Diamond resigning her position as Senior High School Head Gymnastics Coach, effective August 4, 2011

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – Bills in the amount of \$82,202.25; Accruals in the amount of \$695,447.73

D. Home School Approvals

1. One Request

End Consent Agenda

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 9, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

Correspondence – (1) August 9, 2011 Letter to Metcalf School Parents from the Superintendent Regarding AYP; (2) August 3, 2011 Letter to Commissioner Gist from the Superintendent Regarding Vote to Rescind Letter of Withdrawal from SORICO; (3) August 9, 2011 Memorandum to the School Committee from the Superintendent Regarding Job Fair Results; (4) August 7, 2011 Email from Jane F. Correia (RIASBO) Regarding Important Advertising Information

Monthly Budget Projection 2010 – 2011 – Members did not voice any questions, concerns or comments regarding this item.

Budget Update – 2011 – 2012 – Members did not voice any questions, concerns or comments regarding this item.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not voice any questions, concerns or comments regarding this item at this time.

Business – In response to Member McFadden's inquiry regarding the new water system project at Metcalf School, Mr. Ross reported that the electrical panel has been installed. The electrical wiring to power

the panel is forthcoming. At that point, workers will tie into the system, fill the water tank, and turn the temporary system off and the new system on. It will take one day to complete the electrical work and two days to complete the plumbing. Mr. Ross said the contractors are doing a great job. However, today there was no one on site. The deadline to complete the project is August 20, which allows enough time to energize the system with water and have it tested before August 29. The RI Department of Health would prefer to have the project complete earlier next week. If a delay should arise, bottled water would be used for drinking. Dr. Geismar offered assurance that school would open on time and would function. Once the project is complete, landscaping will be done.

Superintendent – In response to Member Donovan’s inquiry regarding the Superintendent’s Monthly Status Report, Dr. Geismar said a letter to Metcalf School parents from the Superintendent regarding AYP was emailed to parents today.

Special Education – None

Maintenance – None

Technology – Members did not voice any questions, concerns or comments regarding this item.

Member Rafanelli made a motion to move up on the agenda the

policies, VI. C.; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 5 - 0 in favor. The motion passed.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 9, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 8301: Student School Attendance – Adoption – Dr. Geismar recognized policy subcommittee member Bill Clay as the subcommittees' guide through the policy writing process to update EWG policies with changes in legislation.

Member Donovan moved to adopt [Policy 8301: Student School Attendance]; seconded by Member McFadden; and voted 5 - 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Policies Review/Adoption – 8608: Health and Safety of Student-Athlete – 2nd Reading – Dr. Geismar advised that this policy reflects the new concussion legislation. He reported that Athletic Director Daft has arranged with Foundry Sports for EWG fall athletes to have free baseline concussion assessments done on August 16, 2011. Next, as a result of the discussion at the last School Committee meeting, first aid kits will be made available at athletic events and will be maintained and kept in accessible places. Policy 8608 will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for adoption.

6220: Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug-Free Work Place – 2nd Reading – Dr. Geismar reported that edits were made to policy 6220 based upon the concerns brought forward at the last School Committee meeting regarding employees' possession of tobacco products and issues regarding the use of medical marijuana. The edits exclude employee possession of tobacco as a disciplinary offense and disallows the use of medical marijuana on school grounds. Policy 6220 will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for adoption with no new changes.

Dr. Geismar thanked Mr. Clay for the fantastic job he does in the policy writing process.

NEW BUSINESS – Approve Purchasing Special Services Van with ARRA Funding – Director of Administration Robert Ross recommended that the School Committee approve the purchase of a special service van to be used for transporting ALP and special needs students to and from their program of studies activities. The \$41,756 purchase, which includes a van and annual operating costs, will be made as part of the ARRA special services IDEA grant budget totaling \$83,299.61. Special education teachers under the District's insurance carrier will drive the van. Special drivers' licenses are not required. Scott Baton of Ocean State Transit has agreed to assist with training drivers.

Member Pande moved to purchase a van for ALP and Special needs

students at \$41,756; seconded by Member McFadden; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Approve Request for 1.0 FTE to be determined as a Contingency – Dr. Geismar requested that the School Committee approve the addition of a 1.0 FTE on a contingency basis. He explained that it might be necessary to add parts of positions to accommodate students as the schedule continues to be refined. Clerk Zuercher recommended bringing this item back before the entire School Committee. Member Rafanelli stated that he

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 9, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

would not be comfortable approving this request. Dr. Geismar stated that he would bring his request next time if an FTE becomes necessary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Approve Wireless Access Contract – Director of Administration Robert Ross informed the School Committee that the wireless area network purchase he is recommending also requires the purchase and installation of devices (teacher workstation carts, LAN adaptors, and projectors) to support the net-books and net-book carts that will be used for the recently adopted K-6 reading program. This is the final component and is in the budget. Mr. Ross reviewed the annual lease amounts. Member Rafanelli questioned what measures are in place to secure the district

network. A general discussion ensued regarding wireless keys to access the district network and members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Ross reviewed the current protocol for securing handheld devices brought into the district. However, recognized there is a problem in the policing of that because handheld devices are everywhere. Dr. Geismar advised that administration is looking at what policy modifications might need to be made and that concerns will arise. He stated that IT Director David Wright has taken the network light-years from where it was 4.5 years ago. It is an ongoing process.

Member Pande moved to award wireless area networks purchase and installation services to Jacobs Strategic Solutions/Tech Team, Inc. for 48 months at \$10,957.82 annually; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Member Pande moved to award the purchase of teacher workstation carts, LAN adaptors, and projectors to CDW Government Group, financing to be provided by HP Financial Services for 48 months at \$7,721.46 annually; seconded by Member Rafanelli; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Sr. High School History Textbook Adoption/Purchase – Dr. Geismar recommended the School Committee adopt and approve the purchase of the Sr. High School U.S. history book to provide all 11th grade students with up to date textbooks.

Member McFadden moved to approve [adoption and purchase of sr. high history textbook]; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Student Information System Update – Dr. Geismar reported that the district has gone live in ASPEN. He expressed gratitude to the secretaries, clerks, principals, administrators, Bob Ross, and the IT folks for getting the work done for ASPEN while still performing their regular duties. The IT Department is currently assigning logins and passwords. Train the trainer sessions are being organized. The parent portal is the next component to get up and running, which will probably be completed by Progress Report time. Dr. Geismar said that he has not signed off on the transformation yet. He will not do so until he is completely satisfied with data rollover.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 9, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the security system workers were on scene today working at the high school and working their way around the district. They are doing a great job.

Reports/Comments – In response to Member Pande's inquiry regarding Correspondence (3), Dr. Geismar reported that in agreement with the Teachers' Union expedited postings would be

sent to all teachers on recall for the positions unfilled at the job fair.

Member Pande expressed her opinion that having two different teachers in a grade-2 classroom is not good for second graders. Dr. Geismar stated that he and Principal Marino are confident it will work.

Member Rafanelli requested to have details defining the security system at the next School Committee meeting. This item will be added to the next regular meeting agenda for discussion.

Member Donovan referenced Correspondence (4) and a very brief discussion ensued regarding the advertisement of School Committee agendas. Dr. Geismar asked Member Donovan if she wanted to have this item on the next School Committee agenda for a vote. Member Donovan responded in the affirmative. This item will be added to the next regular meeting agenda.

Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, August 10, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 17, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, August 23, 2011 – School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 24, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Thursday, August 25, 2011-New Staff Training; Friday, August 26, 2011-Professional Development Day; Monday, August 29, 2011-Teacher Orientation Day; Tuesday, August 30, 2011- First Day of School K-12; Wednesday, August 31, 2011 – Building Committee

Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – None

Adjournment – Member Rafanelli moved to adjourn; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK